

CORPS' PONDENT

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

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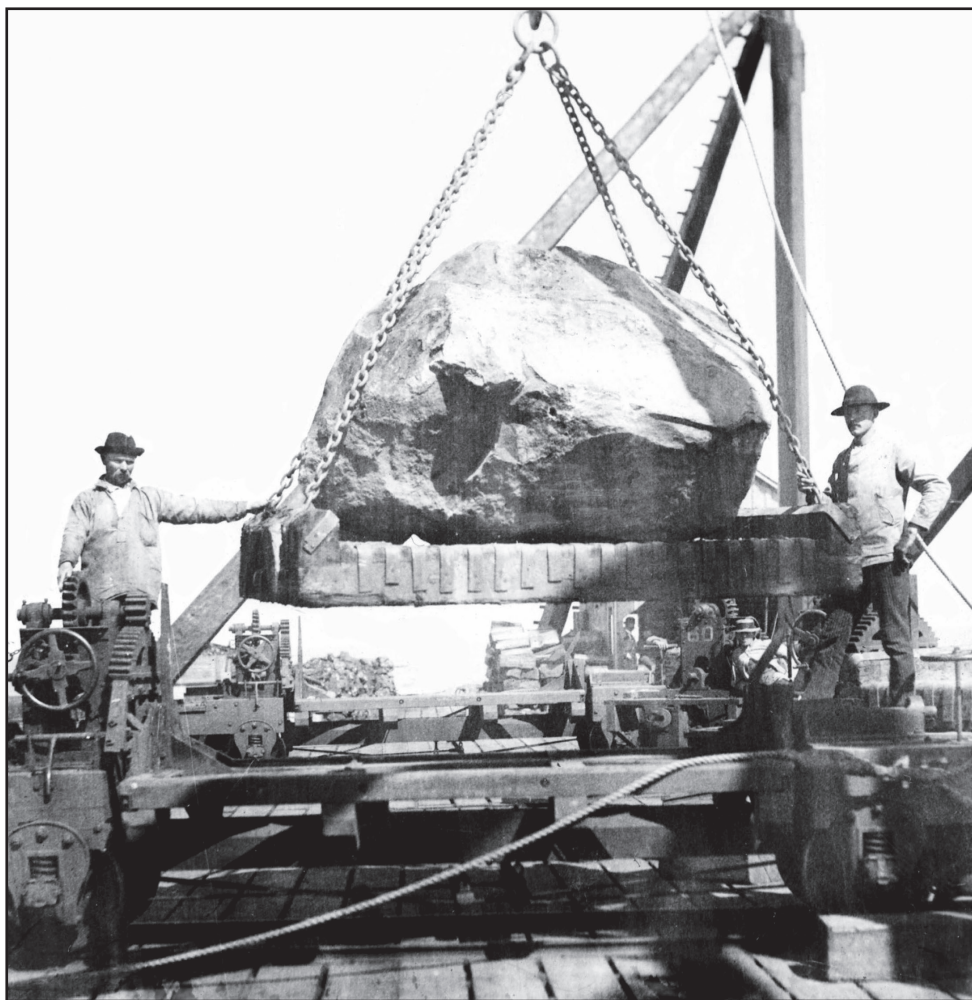


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CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

This historic photo of workers constructing the Columbia Jetty is one of 30 photographs that will be displayed on the 10th floor of Robert Duncan Plaza. The existing artwork on each Corps floor will be replaced over the next several months to reflect the District's missions, projects and historic moments. "The District has a proud history and a bright future of service to the region and the country," Portland District Commander Col. Tom O'Donovan said. "I want to show every visitor to our offices the great job Portland District employees are doing."



COMMANDER'S COLUMN




Col. Thomas O'Donovan

For Corps districts in the Pacific Northwest, our mission is heavily dependent on water – that's probably no surprise to anyone. Sometimes we get too much water, though, and that's when the District's Reservoir Regulation and Water Quality Section employees are hard at work. Their skills and expertise are complemented by the Reservoir Control Center, who, together with several other federal agencies must develop an accurate forecast of the seasonal rains. So much depends on those forecasts – for instance, how much water we will need to release to maintain the reservoir's integrity and minimize flood damage downstream, or how much we can hold for irrigation, fish or recreation needs later in the season. The staff at RCC, the District and at the projects coordinate in the best way to manage the increased water flowing into the region's rivers and streams.

Last month I had a first hand look at how our water regulation process works during stressful periods. The biggest peak event took place during the New Year weekend, but after that we endured three or four more storms, one after another, that kept water levels high enough for active intervention. The inflow of rain and runoff was significant, but our project employees shut the gates at the right time, keeping the extra water behind the dam and decreasing the peak water levels by 7 feet in Salem and an impressive 12.8 feet in Eugene. That means

floods would have been 12.8 feet higher in Eugene without the great effort of the Willamette projects.

We only have two projects to provide flood damage reduction in the Rogue River Basin, so our impact on flooding is less. Nevertheless, thanks to the project efforts at Lost Creek and Applegate, the Rogue River was 3 feet lower than it would have been without their assistance. The river did top its banks and flooding was seen in downstream communities, but it would have been much worse without our projects holding back the water.

I want to thank each employee working with our flood damage reduction mission for the outstanding job during this flood season. We had employees constantly monitoring the water levels at the reservoirs, and talking with RCC and District folks. These employees were on-call and worked throughout the holidays to ensure communities downstream would face the least amount of flooding we could manage. Thanks to their efforts, we can say our mission during this flood season was a success. Well done, everyone. 

Essays!

Correction:

The cover photo in the January *Corps'pondent* was inadvertently credited to Dennis Schwartz; it was actually taken by Robert Leitch, Channels and Harbors Project. We regret the error. --Editor

CORPS'PONDENT



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of Engineers
Portland District

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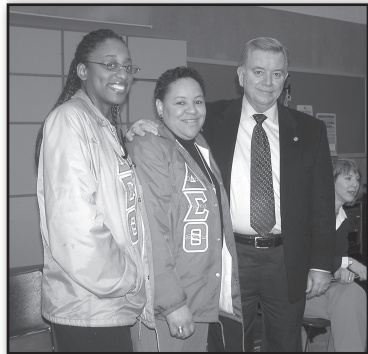
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions

By Jean Loomis, The U.S. Government Moorings



Tammy Washington, center, meets Portland Mayor Tom Potter while volunteering at the 21st anniversary tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., at Jefferson High School, Jan. 16, 2006.

February is filled with important activities for Corps employees: we look forward to expressing feelings of love on Valentine's Day, we entertain and inspire students from local schools on Engineering Day, and we celebrate the contributions African-Americans have made – and are still making – to help our nation reach its full potential, now and for future generations.

A tradition of activism and community involvement among African-Americans continues here in the District. The Corps, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service all have dynamic African-American employees who are local community movers and shakers. They are making a difference, not only in the jobs they hold in these federal departments, but also in the way they enhance the communities in which we live.

In the spirit of this year's theme, *Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions*, it's fitting to introduce some of our own community superstars.

Tammy Washington, with Portland District's Information Management Office, has worked tirelessly to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. She was instrumental in planning, gathering and transporting clothing to organizations distributing assistance in the devastated areas.

Washington also is a member of the Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which was originally chartered as Beta Psi in 1945. The organization has provided services to the community for over 60 years, including tutoring and education programs, financial awareness workshops,


mentorship of young ladies, scholarships and grants for education, voter registration drives and issues concerning AIDS.

As the Portland chapter's treasurer as well as the co-chair of two committees, Economic Development and Hurricane Katrina Projects, Washington is helping to develop their latest hurricane project, "Step in the Name of Love," a benefit show for hurricane survivors who have relocated to the Portland area. Watch for announcements about this and other Delta projects – you can support their efforts and help those less fortunate at the same time.

Patricia Ford, also with the Information Management Office, is another Corps community superstar, a woman who strives to make positive changes in the lives of people she meets.

Ford's spiritual grounding is leading her to other countries. She is involved with an organization called Freedom in the Son (FITS), a prison ministry, which is planning a trip to Nairobi in May. Once there, she and her colleagues will care for AIDS children in orphanages and help create a community.

In addition to her involvement with FITS, Ford also mentors women with addiction problems, serves the homeless at the Sisters of the Road Café, and has been instrumental in the relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims sponsored by the Corps and through her church. She has befriended three relocated families here in the Portland area to help them through their transition phase. During the Christmas holidays, she works with churches to deliver gifts to children whose mothers are incarcerated.

As long as we have people like these two, who are willing to extend a helping hand, the spirit of community service will continue to thrive. 



During an upcoming trip to Nairobi, District employee Patricia Ford will help build a community from the ground up, including neighborhood homes, a clinic and a school.

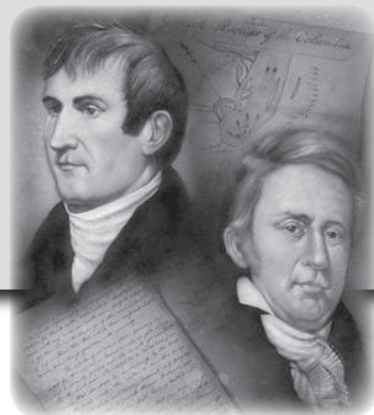




February 1806:

Looking Toward Home

By Melissa Rinehart
Operations Division



February was another rainy month in the Pacific Northwest for the Corps of Discovery. Events for this month included making buckskins and moccasins, continued production of salt at the salt works, completing maps and hunting, as well as visits from local tribes. Overall, February marked the general feeling that “all are pleased, that one month of the time which binds us to Fort Clatsop and which separates us from our friends has now elapsed.”

For most of the month, hunting was good and plenty of elk was available – however this is about all the men ate during their stay at Fort Clatsop, although the Chinook and Clatsop tribes did tell them that candlefish were running. Lewis noted on Feb. 7, “we had what I call an excellent supper it consisted of a marrowbone a piece and a brisket of boiled Elk that had the appearance of a little fat on it. This is for Fort Clatsop is living in high stile [sic].”

Lewis continued to document new species and the men assisted when they could. Sgt. Ordway brought him a species of pine found in the swamps and marshes frequently flooded by the tide. Lewis documented that it constituted about half of the timber in their area and was later identified

as Sitka Spruce. Mountain Hemlock was also described near Fort Clatsop. The tribes let them know that there were many black bears in the area, but that they were all “in their holes” that time of year. As much as he tried to document celestial readings, Capt. Lewis wrote in his journal, “I am mortified at not having it in my power to make more celestial observations since we have been at Fort Clatsop, but such has been the state of the weather that I have found it utterly impracticable.”

Near the end of the month, the men from the salt works returned. About 12 gallons of salt had been made. Sgt. Ordway and a few others suffered from their exposure while manning the salt works. Lewis treated them with Rush’s “thunderclappers” and speculated that their recovery was slow due to the lack of variety in their diet. Although they were hungry there was nothing to feed them but elk meat.

In late February, Clark completed the map of the country through which they had traveled since the journey’s beginning: from the confluence of the Missouri with the Mississippi River and on to the Pacific Ocean. Clark writes in his journal, “We now discover that we have found the most

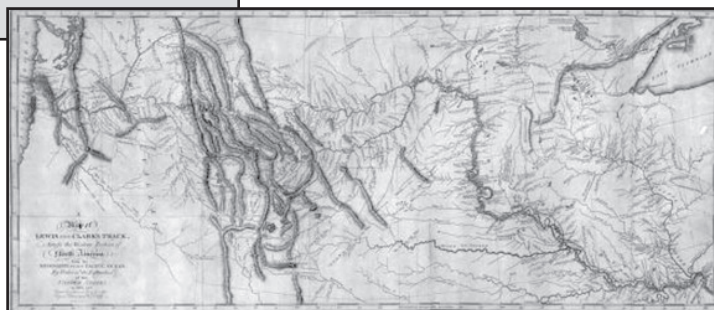




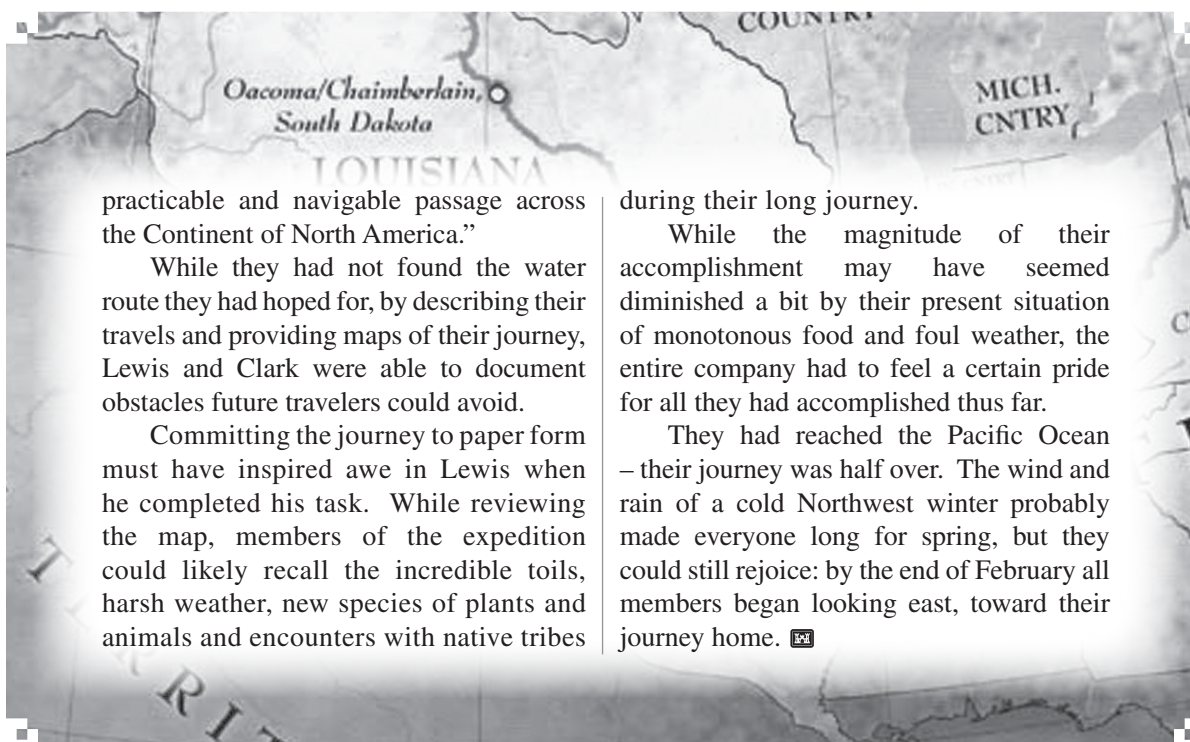
It was determined that the “best and most practicable route across the continent is by way of the Missouri to the Falls; thence to Clarks River at the entrance of Traveler-Rest Creek, from thence up Travelers-Rest Creek to the forks, from whence you pursue a range of mountains which divides the waters of the two forks of this creek, and which still continues it’s westwardly course on the mountain which divides the waters of the two forks of the Kooskooske River to their junction; from thence to descend this river to the SE branch of the Columbia, thence down that river to the Columbia, and down the latter to the Pacific Ocean.”

Below: Lewis and Clark Map of the West, 1814

Source: Library of Congress
Geography and Map Division
<http://memory.loc.gov>



This is the first published map to display the geographical discoveries of Lewis and Clark. It was copied and reduced from William Clark’s large manuscript map of the West by Samuel Lewis, a Philadelphia mapmaker, and engraved by Samuel Harrison for publication with Nicholas Biddle’s journal of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1814. Clark’s great map is the first to show the Rocky Mountains and the headwaters of the great western rivers with relative accuracy. Parts of the map were derived from Indian maps copied by Lewis and Clark.




practicable and navigable passage across the Continent of North America.”

While they had not found the water route they had hoped for, by describing their travels and providing maps of their journey, Lewis and Clark were able to document obstacles future travelers could avoid.

Committing the journey to paper form must have inspired awe in Lewis when he completed his task. While reviewing the map, members of the expedition could likely recall the incredible toils, harsh weather, new species of plants and animals and encounters with native tribes

during their long journey.

While the magnitude of their accomplishment may have seemed diminished a bit by their present situation of monotonous food and foul weather, the entire company had to feel a certain pride for all they had accomplished thus far.

They had reached the Pacific Ocean – their journey was half over. The wind and rain of a cold Northwest winter probably made everyone long for spring, but they could still rejoice: by the end of February all members began looking east, toward their journey home. 



Spring conservation planning IN THE WILLAMETTE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO



FEATURE

By Heidi Helwig, Public Affairs Office

Water stored in the Corps' 13 Willamette Basin reservoirs has many uses. Some communities in the basin get their drinking water from the Willamette River system. A number of major employers use river water in their manufacturing processes, and farmers and nursery operators use water for irrigating their crops. In addition, Corps lakes also support recreational activities, such as boating, fishing and windsurfing. Thousands of people also fish, canoe and sail on the Willamette River and its tributaries.

In the mid-1990s, the Corps of Engineers began a study to analyze how the demand for water will increase as population in the basin continues to grow, and what the implications of this demand may be on the operation of the Corps' reservoir system. Though limited funding has precluded completion of the study, the complexities of water allocation remain.

"The population is expected to double and we already have ESA [Endangered Species Act] issues," said Matt Rea, the Corps' Willamette Basin Coordinator. "That, in my mind, brings a whole new suite of stakeholders who have a vested interest in how the Willamette Valley projects are operated. Combine this with more and more municipalities looking to the Willamette River as a source of water - it gets more and more difficult and complicated."

Welcome to the world of spring conservation planning. The challenges of the conservation

period, from March through October, are usually opposite of those during the flood control season. Instead of trying to control an abundance of water, Rea and the Reservoir Regulation and Water Quality Section, led by Brad Bird, help decide how to make Willamette Basin water stretch far enough to serve competing and growing interests, namely fish and recreation. Water also is allocated for irrigation and water quality.

The plan developed to help manage these decisions is called the Willamette Conservation Plan, a one-season plan tailored specifically for each water year. One important aspect of the plan addresses the need to meet downstream flow targets for fisheries concerns, as recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). It also includes the prioritization for drafting reservoirs to meet the downstream flow targets. For instance, Green Peter is the first reservoir to be drafted, while Detroit Reservoir—one of the top recreation draws in the Valley—is one of the last to contribute additional flows. The plan is updated each year to respond to changing needs, whether they are biological or political in nature, Rea said.

The plan is developed only in part by the Corps. "The Corps has the ultimate responsibility to manage the projects, but the last thing we want to do is to make these decisions in a vacuum. We listen to reservoir

stakeholders' concerns," Rea said. The stakeholders are collectively known as the Interagency Flow Management Work Group. Individually, they are NMFS, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bonneville Power Administration and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

"The process by which these different agencies participate has evolved," Rea said. "Since 1999, the Corps talks at least once a week with agency representatives, sometimes more. Before that, we might have coordinated every month or so. The formal ESA consultation under Section 7 really kicked our conservation planning up a notch." This was because of the legal requirements to meet flow targets, he said.

The process itself may evolve and new challenges present themselves, Rea said, due in part to the process structure. "It has been very much an ad hoc group with no real charter or structure. It has worked effectively to date and I think everyone involved would agree. In 2001 and 2005, we worked some very difficult water-year issues together."


With increasing participation from other federal and state agencies as well as concerned community representatives, there is a move afoot to at least consider instituting a more formal structure to the workgroup, Rea said. In addition, in its biological

opinion for the Willamette Basin, NMFS suggested a more formal structure would better serve the group.

A second way the conservation plan is executed is through real-time monitoring, provided by the Reservoir Control Center, which relies heavily on the water supply forecast provided by the National Resources Conservation Service. The forecast projecting the amount of rain and runoff entering the basin, as well as the use of computerized modeling programs, help determine how much water to release downstream.

Though the current computerized modeling program has served the group well, "we can look at how to improve the tools we currently use, such as the hydraulic and hydrology models," Rea said. In the near future, the Corps' water managers hope to have access to a newer generation of models that are more user-friendly, and which may offer greater understanding of how water releases impact water temperatures and fish downstream of the reservoirs.

With or without new equipment, however, the coordination between workgroup members will continue to be critical in developing the annual Willamette Conservation Plan. As water demands become more crucial, working with Corps' partners becomes a key factor in the plan's success, Rea said.

"It's an evolving process. It's more difficult, but I have fun with it. Most players would agree that we do a lot of good work through it," Rea said. 



FEATURE

Willamette River



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO



Spring conservation planning:

A delicate balance *on the Rogue River*

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

FEATURE

Mother Nature delivered nearly a solid month of rain in January to the Rogue River Basin, possibly making residents think about how the river's dam system helps promote flood damage reduction. On the other hand, the seemingly endless rainy days may have had them longing for summertime fun at Lost Creek or Applegate reservoirs.

What people probably aren't thinking about are the competing resources of the Rogue River and the highly involved planning process that takes place each year to try to ensure that there will be enough water at the right time of year for each of those resources' needs.

This balancing act is the daunting task of the Rogue Basin Water Management Group, which is comprised of a handful of agencies ranging from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Oregon State Marine Board to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest River Forecast Center. This interagency team, chaired by the Oregon Water Resources Department, works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best way to manage water resources based on projected forecasts for that year.

There are many factors involved in this decision: those which cannot be controlled, such as weather and snowpack forecasts; and those which can, such as the amount of water released from the reservoirs each day. Forecasts estimate how much water will flow into the river from storms and melting snow, which directly affect the rate at which the water in the reservoirs can be released. The group must adapt their plan constantly to keep up with these changing conditions and forecasts.

"Water releases must be fine-tuned with the forecast information to avoid topping the river's banks, but releases must also be balanced for the competing resources of the river," said Mary Karen Scullion, hydraulic engineer with Portland District.

The reservoirs must be at minimum levels in preparation for the flood season, generally from November to February. Lost Creek reservoir's minimum pool elevation of 1,812 feet must be reached by Nov. 1, and Applegate's reservoir must reach its minimum pool elevation of 1,889 feet by Nov. 15, said Jim Buck, operations manager for the Rogue River Basin projects.

Drafting of the reservoirs to minimum levels allows maximum storage capacity for storm events during the rainy season. This allows the Corps to balance storing the extra inflows from rainfall with the releases downriver, said Scullion.

On Jan. 1 at Lost Creek and Feb. 1 at Applegate, the Corps slowly begins filling the reservoirs with the goal of having both filled by May 1, the beginning of the conservation season.

May 1 is also when, after many meetings and adjustments, the Corps issues a final management plan providing for the best use of the water for the conservation season to the agencies involved with the water management group.

"During this period of filling we are balancing flood damage reduction with filling the reservoir for conservation purposes," said Buck. "At the same time, downstream flows must still be managed even as the reservoir is filled."

The reservoirs are drafted throughout the summer and early fall to augment natural flows, open up more



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

The Rogue River, looking downstream from William L. Jess Dam.

area for fish to spawn, and to provide enough water for irrigation, municipal and industrial water use (at Lost Creek only) using the plan developed by the water management group.

As the conservation season comes to an end, the reservoirs have been drafted back down to minimum flood damage reduction pool levels, ready for another flood season by November, said Buck.

"Flood damage reduction and conservation planning is a cycle similar to the seasons of the year," said Buck.

"Last year it was very dry, and we were worried that the amount of water in the reservoirs would not be sufficient for the conservation program," said Scullion. "We finally had a late-season rain that returned the water levels to the rule curve, keeping our conservation plans afloat."

Rule curves were developed for each project to maximize their potential to store large amounts of inflow that could cause downstream flooding. They serve as a guide to keep water in the reservoir at levels necessary for maximum flood damage reduction, while at the same time providing guidance for reaching full pool levels by the beginning of the conservation release season, said Scullion.

"Because this year has been extremely wet, the

weather has had the opposite effect as we saw in 2005," said Scullion. "However, we haven't really started to fill the reservoirs yet, so all this water doesn't do us much good."

Rather than worrying that there's not enough water, this year the Corps must deal with all of the extra inflow and return the levels to the rule curve so it can implement the water management group's conservation plan – all while plans for this year are still being discussed.

"We are having to release water slowly enough to avoid flooding, but quickly enough to retain storage in the reservoirs for the constant rainfall and to keep water levels in the reservoir as close to the rule curve as possible for the upcoming conservation season," said Scullion. "No matter what is coming in, we must manage the outflow so that the pool does not overflow or draft too deeply."

While the Rogue River Basin project's primary authorization is flood damage reduction, after flood season the number one priority becomes managing the riverflows for fish.

The fish factor has really changed the way the water on the Rogue is managed, so it's a good thing that both Applegate and William L. Jess dams were built with fish in mind, Buck said. Each dam was




built to allow operators to regulate the temperature of water released from the lake by mixing water from different depths and releasing it downstream. This cools the normally too-warm summer water of the Rogue River so that fish have a better chance of surviving the elevated summer water temperatures, Buck added.

Although the needs of fish require the most attention when determining riverflows, irrigation, and municipal and industrial water use also must be taken into account when planning for spring and summer releases of the water stored in project reservoirs.

The William L. Jess Dam at Lost Creek was the first of the multi-purpose Rogue River Basin projects to be completed. In addition to the main focus of fishery enhancement, the dam also reduces the threat of potentially disastrous flooding and is a source of hydropower.

At Applegate Dam, water stored in the reservoir for flood damage reduction maintains a year-round flow in the Applegate River, assuring good quality water even in dry summer months. Regulating the outflow temperatures improves conditions during the summer for migrating fish in the Applegate and Rogue rivers.

The Rogue River Basin project is a prime example of multi-purpose facilities. From fishery enhancements and irrigation to municipal and industrial water use, the water management group must take the primary mission of flood damage reduction into account when planning water releases for the year. At the same time, secondary purposes of the project, such as hydropower and recreation, have become increasingly important and directly result from spring conservation planning.

"The Corps, as part of the Army, follows the motto 'Be all you can be,'" said Scullion. "All the projects try to do just that, with the cooperation of Mother Nature." 

**Coming up in the
next issue of the
Corps'pondent:
Dam Safety**

Reader Comments

Sir,

I read with great interest your commander's column in the January *Corps'pondent*. It captures many of the thoughts I've had about the Corps and our reputation with both the environmental community and the general public. I feel very strongly that, as an organization, we need to devote the appropriate resources to develop long-term relationships with our stakeholders in the environmental community and get the message out (continually and consistently) that the Corps has a new set of environmental operating principles.

Each year the District's Leadership Development Program schedules a trip to Washington, D.C. As a member of this year's LDP program, my colleagues and I had the opportunity to meet with lobbyists from the National Wildlife Federation, American Rivers and Save our Wild Salmon. Dave Conrad from NWF was especially hopeful about the Corps' role in future environmental restoration projects.

Similar to your assumption about Northwest Environmental Advocates, I thought we would have an adversary in NWF. To the contrary, they see the Corps as a valuable partner. According to Mr. Conrad, the Corps is the only federal partner that can pull off the large scale ecosystem restoration projects his organization supports.

Again, I'm very glad that you've emphasized environmental stewardship as one of Portland District's most important missions. The emphasis from the top on clarifying and communicating our environmental operating principles is greatly appreciated.

Paul Cedfeldt
Engineering and Construction Division
GIS, CADD and Mapping

Reader contributions are welcome. If you have a response to an article, news tips or article suggestions, forward them to cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil.



Portland District offers interesting challenges for clear-eyed engineer

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

It's not often that Mary Karen Scullion admits to not seeing her world clearly. This hydraulic engineer, who coordinates the Rogue River Basin's water levels and knew in high school she wanted to be an engineer, was amazed when she got her first pair of glasses at age 10. Before trying out her new glasses, Scullion saw the Chugach Mountains that surround Anchorage, Alaska, as just a blur. "I couldn't believe how beautiful they were with my new glasses on," she said.

Scullion's vision is sharply focused these days on Lost Creek, Applegate and Willow Creek as she provides real-time reservoir regulation for these waterways. "My job includes coordination with the Northwest River Forecast Center for inflow and outflow evaluation to facilitate protection of downstream fisheries, power generation and irrigation withdrawals," she said.

Protecting fisheries and working to manage some of the Pacific Northwest's most beautiful rivers comes naturally to Scullion. Growing up in Alaska fostered a deep love for nature and wildlife. In addition to fishing for salmon from her father's commercial gill net fishing boat, some of Scullion's fondest memories center on fish and wildlife that shared her world. "I will always remember watching twin moose calves playing in our backyard," she said.

Her interest in nature helped steer her engineering aspirations, too. "I thought coastal engineering would be really interesting, because I love being around water. My dad convinced me that civil engineering is a broader field, making it easier to find a job," Scullion said. "I could specialize later if I wanted to."

Her father also convinced her to apply for the Corps' Engineer-in-Training program with Alaska District. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to see the full scope of what the Corps does before picking where I wanted to work," Scullion said. "As it turned out, I took the long route to working with water – through construction, then design and now river regulation."



Mary Karen Scullion takes in the sights of the nation's capital during her trip with the Leadership Development Program in November. Among her special memories during the trip was LDP's dinner with Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, who was NWD Division Commander when Scullion worked at RCC.

She also took the long route around Alaska as an EIT – surveying almost every State of Alaska-owned harbor and Federal Aviation Administration airstrip in the state – most of which were accessible only by seaplane.

After five years with Alaska District, Scullion spent a couple of warm winters in Okinawa, Japan, with the Corps' area office, where she explored a new kind of wildlife when she learned to scuba dive. She relocated to Vancouver, Wash., in 1998 when her husband was offered a job there. Three months after arriving in the Pacific Northwest, Scullion began working for the Portland District Resident Office with the coastal team. "It took nearly eight years, but I got to try my hand at coastal engineering," she said.

Two years later Scullion transferred to the Division's Reservoir Control Center, a move that refocused her vision on rivers and streams. After four years with RCC she returned to the District, this time to the Reservoir Regulation and Water Quality Section. "The Corps has been a great place to use my engineering skills," she said. "Managing reservoirs is a pretty unique business, and it's interesting because





EMPLOYEE FOCUS

there is a bit of risk involved, since it is so weather-dependent." Scullion takes her public service role very seriously, since she knows the decisions she's helping to make regarding water flow affect the public. "It's an awesome responsibility," she said.

True to her wilderness background, Scullion is pleased that reservoir regulation is important for both fish and people. "It cracks me up that we even manage water flow for the bugs and biota ... fish food!"

Since she began in reservoir regulation, Scullion has been learning regulation procedures for both the Willamette and Rogue River systems. Brad Bird, Scullion's supervisor, is impressed with her ability to see her surroundings and learn her duties quickly and efficiently. "Mary Karen is a self-starter. I never have to light a fire to get her motivated," Bird said. "She knows her job and has good instincts about what's important." He might have to check which way the fire is burning occasionally, but he chalks that up to a supervisor's normal duty. "Discussing the finer points of how to complete a task is much easier than if I had to motivate her to do it in the first place," he added.

Her enthusiasm spills over into her personal life as well. Scullion and her husband Tom go hiking on the trails near their Vancouver home whenever possible. "I was sent to Portland District sometime around 1992 as part of the EIT program and I fell in love with the character and feel of Portland. I decided I needed to move here if I ever had the chance, and it happened Tom received a job offer here just as my two-year tour in Okinawa was ending."

There has been less time for enjoying her leisure activities, however, since Scullion is a member of the 2005-2006 Leadership Development Program as well as being a first responder on the District's debris team.

"LDP has been a great experience. I really encourage anyone interested in learning more about leadership in general and Corps leadership in particular to apply," she said. "The trip to Washington, D.C., is the high point." The amount of reading required to prepare for the trip is extensive, Scullion found, but "it really helped me understand what I was seeing as we visited with many of the political players that make up the Corps' headquarters environment."

Being a member of the District's debris team brings Scullion another opportunity to make a difference. "Mike Moran [from Engineering and Construction Division] recruited me for the team," she said. "He told me how interesting the work was and how we can make a difference to a lot of people with our work. I deployed with the debris team just

after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and he was so right!

"I was able to make a difference by designing a computerized database to track contractor tickets the Corps uses to pay for debris removal to the landfills," Scullion said. "The best part was seeing how Corps folks from around the country worked together, putting in long hours under difficult conditions to help those suffering unbelievable losses due to the hurricane. The Corps has a dedicated workforce ready to help out wherever and whenever they are needed."

Scullion isn't sure if water regulation is her final engineering choice, but whatever the future holds, she's pretty sure it will have something to do with water. Water regulation is challenging work that influences entire river systems; better still, it also allows her to enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Bird is sure that if she ever does decide to explore new engineering challenges, Scullion will give it her all. "Mary Karen doesn't just sit back and dream; she does," he said. "She's upbeat and full of energy. There's no telling where we will see her succeed in the future."

One thing is certain, as this red-haired dynamo eyes her future, she won't need a new pair of glasses to see where she's going.

Mary Karen Scullion displays a 5-foot Chinook salmon she caught while fishing on her father's commercial gill net boat. Scullion caught the fish, weighing in at nearly 50 lbs., in Cook Inlet, Alaska.

